एग्रीमेंट में क्या प्रोटैक्शन है? मुझे लगता है कि यह सवाल सब के मन में है। आप इसका जवाब लाकर हाउस से शेयर कर लीजिए।

अब आगे के क्वेश्चन पर मैं आती हूं, क्योंकि सभी यही सवाल पूछेंगे और इसका जवाब अभी है नहीं।

श्री सतीश प्रधान: मैडम, मैं थोड़ा सा अलग पूछ रहा हूं।

उपसभापति: सब अलग ही होते हैं। ....(व्यवधान), बोलिए, लेकिन अलग ही होना चाहिए।

श्री सतीश प्रधान: हां, बिल्कुल अलग।

उपसभापति: बोलिए।

श्री सतीश प्रधान: मैडम, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह बात जानना चाहता हूं कि जो बोफर्स के बारे में चर्चा चल रही है जिन दिनों में ज्वाइंट पार्लियामेंट कमेटी एप्वायंट की गई थी उसमें मैं नहीं जाता, लेकिन वह जो तोपें हमने खरीदी थी वह तोपें आज की तारीख में उसमें से कितनी चल सकती है, काम में आ सकती है, ऐसी स्थिति में कितनी तोप बंद है? अगर बंद है तो क्या उसके कारण उसके कल-पुर्जे उपलब्ध नहीं होना है? यदि वह उपलब्ध नहीं होते तो उसके क्या कारण है?

उपसभापति: यह अलग सवाल है। अब इतना भी अलग नहीं पूछना है। सवाल से संबंधित ही होना चाहिए। प्रश्न संख्या 203

श्री सतीश प्रधान: मैडम, मुझे कुछ जवाब नहीं मिला।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is a separate question.

Special Women Courts to deal with atrocities on women

*203. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of incidents of atrocities on women have been increasing tremendously in the country;

(b) whether Government would set up special women courts so that atrocities could be stopped; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Staement

(a) Accoroding to information available, the incidence of crime committed against women during the last three years was as follows:-

Year	*Incidence of crime*
1994	98948
1995	106445
1996	106739 (Provisional)

(b) and (c) The Administration of Justice in the District/Subordinate Courts comes under the purview of the State Governments/High Courts and they are competent to set up such Courts according to their requirements.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Now, Madam, you are Chairman of the Committee on Empowerment of women. My question is about crimes committed against women. In our State of Tamil Nadu in Madurai Corporation, one Councillor was murdered by a DMK Divisional Joint Secretary. Now he is in the custody of jail.

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Madam, how is it....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please sit down.

You cannot suppress his question just because he belongs to another party. You just keep quiet. It is for me to decide.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: These are the atrocties committed against women. This is my first question. In 1996, 106739 cases were committed against women. My question is: How are we going to prevent the crime against women as far as our State is concerned?

Madam, when our Madam was the Chief Minister, she put a separate police station for women. I requested the Minister and told him that these are the places where they are not having a separte police station for women. This is my supplmentary question.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The question which has been tabled has two parts. One relates to the incidence of crimes committed against women. I have got some figures here, year by year. If you are interested, it shows that the incidence of crime against women is definitely on the increase. I cannot say specifically regarding Tamil Nadu or any other State. I have not got that data with me. I can colllect that, if you like. The second part of the question was not about police stations manned by women but about courts, women's courts. About women's courts, I can only say that at present there is no specific definition as to what exactly is meant by womens courts. Generally, what we understand is, a woman's courts is a court which is presided over by a woman and a court in which the prosecuting counsel is also a woman.

We have been writing to the State Governments to try to set up this kind of courts. Up till now we have very little response and to my information there are only three or four such courts which are functioning in Delhi, not in any other State. Regarding crimes against women this has been discussed many times, in this House, in both the Houses. There are so many measures and steps which are continually being reviewed and taken in order to prevent or to at least lesson the incidence of crimes against women. But we have no proposal of having a separate police station which is entirely manned by women.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Managed by women, because again the world 'manned' by women is quite contradictory. It has to be managed by women.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What I understand is that the personnel who are in charge of that particular police station should be women. So that is not the general practice which is being followed and I do not know what they follow in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: My second supplementary is, after the enactment of the Family Courts Act, 1984 in our country there are only 61 family courts. In U.P. it is 16, Rajasthan—5, Maharashtra—13, Orissa—2, Karnataka—4, Tamil Nadu—5, Kerala—5, Bihar—2, Assam—1, Manipur—1, Arunachal Pradesh—6 and Pondicherry—1. The hon. Home Minister is attending the Law Ministers' Conference and the DGPs' State Conference and he is attending the Judicial Conference. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister gave any instructions to the Law Department or consulted the Law Minister to put a separate family court in the entire State of the country.

According to the information contained in the Annual Report of the Department of Law and Justice, there are no family courts in West Bengal. I have already indicated the names of States where there are some family courts. I would like to know whether there are any family courts in West Bengal.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Madam, as far as I know, no family court has been set up in West Bengal yet. The hon. Member has already indicated the names of States where there are some family courts. You can see from the Annual Report, which is supplied by our Ministry, that the number of family courts set up in different States is very meagre and this is an unsatisfactory state of affairs. We are constantly reminding the Law Ministers of the States and their Governments that they should expedite and get more family courts set up in their States. But the progress is slow...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: ... and the crime rate is fast.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Madam, family courts are not primarily meant to deal with crimes against women. Family courts are meant to look into disputes

which arise between wives and husbands and try to bring about some settlement, some reconciliation.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Home Minister, as Chairperson of the Committee on Empowerment of Women, I find that crimes are detected; cases are registered and they go to courts. What is unfortunate is that most of the accused are always acquitted. As you know, people register their cases, which they don't generally do in many cases, in the police stations with great difficulty. But, even after prolonged judicial battles, the accused get acquitted. In Delhi itself, no culprit has so far been punished. This is the situation.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Madam, special family courts are established only in a few States. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is inclined to set up special courts to deal with cases of atrocities only so that justice can be rendered within a fixed timeframe. I want to know whether the Government has any such proposal under its consideration. Secondly, I would like to know the number of people who are charge-sheeted and the number of people who are actually penalised and the steps being taken to reduce the number of cases.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Madam, the hon. lady Member has asked about the possibility of setting up special courts, not women's courts, to specifically deal with all cases, offences, against women. She wanted to know whether the Government has any proposal to set up special courts which will deal exclusively with crimes relating to atrocities against women. This is a very laudable proposal. Personally I am all in favour of it and such courts can be set up. Of course, they will not be manned, or managed rather, entirely by women, but...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: ... presided over by women.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If special courts are set up, then such offences can be dealt with speedily and with a more concentrated attention. Such courts are very few now. There is no legal sanction behind them so far. It is between the High Courts and the State Governments. There is nothing which prevents State Governments from setting up such courts. We are trying to impress upon them the need to take the required action in this matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Jayaprada Nahata.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Madam, the Minister has not answered the question regarding the number of people... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let others also put their questions.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Madam, I would specifically like to refer to certain kinds of crimes against women in respect of which special courts are required to be set up. One is dowry harassment and dowry deaths and the other is rape, including child rape. The number of these crimes is increasing in the social fabric of our entire society. It is very necessary that justice is done to the victims of these cases expeditiously. Therefore, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would seriously consider appointing women magistrates to try these crimes against women. I think other crimes such as stripping of women may also be referred to these magistrates for trial.

Thank you, Madam Deputy Chairman.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Question Hour is over.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, the Minister will give a reply.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Madam, the hon. Member has referred to some types of crimes. There ary many more. There is rape, kidnapping, abduction, dowry deaths, torture, molestation, eve-teasing, importing of girls...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Family violence.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: ...family violence, *sati*, immoral traffic, indecent representation of women, etc. The suggestion made here is that there should be courts in which magistrates should be women and such cases should come up before those courts. Madam, we are not able to get enough women magistrates. That is also a problem, Madam. Somebody has suggested that there should be reservation in the category of magistrates for women. This is also worth considering whether by doing that we can get the services of a larger number of women to serve as magistrates. I am looking into this matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am sure, Mr. Minister, if you discuss it with the law Minister you will find the ways because there are many women and girls who have gone into study of law and they will be available.

My observation is that there is no will. If there is a will there is always a way. If there is no will, then there are so many impediments which come in the way. Today I had the will to allow this question. Even though the Question Hour was over, I allowed it because there was a will and a women was sitting over here. I am sure if there was a man sitting over here, he would have said the Question Hour was over. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Madam, we are all with you in this *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: One women is controlling the entire House, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sure, and not with your support; On this issue you should have spoken that there are crimes against women.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: I have already spoken, Madam. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You should have said that there is harassment, there are crimes, there are family crimes

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Sinking of South Korean Ship in Hooghly River

*204. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Koreans fume, CPT bosses take it easy" in Economic Times, dated 25th June, 1997, regarding sinking of South Korean liner "MV Green Opal" in the Hooghly river;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any rejoinder has been issued by Calcutta Port Trust authorities; and

(d) the present status of salvage operation of the ship?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) the report appears biased and not based on facts.

(c) No. But the Correspondent of the paper was briefed about the correct position.

(d) Calcutta Port Trust has taken necessary steps for undertaking the salvage operations by the Insurer of the Vessel "M.V. Green Opal" on behalf of the owners at their own cost.

Escalation of LCA project cost

*205. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the LCA project's original cost in 1983 was Rs. 560 crores but seventeen years later, the cost has risen to Rs. 2,000 crore; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?